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BOTRYCHUM LUNARIA Swartz, was collected in Michigan long before the date given in the *JUNE NATURALIST* by Mr. Gillman. In my herbarium are specimens collected on Isle Royale by Dr. A. E. Foote, in the summer of 1868.—C. E. BESSEY.

ZOOLOGY.

TRANSFORMATIONS OF OUR MOTHS.—Some interesting notes are given by Mr. J. A. Lintner in the "Twenty-sixth Annual Report on the New York State Cabinet of Natural History for 1872." He describes very fully the larva of *Eudryas unio* which feeds on *Epilobium coloratum*, and not on the grape, as stated by Fitch, and afterwards by Packard and Riley on Fitch's authority. Lintner gives characters for distinguishing the larvæ of *Eudryas unio* and *grata* as well as *Psychomorpha epimenis*, which so closely resembles *Eudryas* in its larval stage. The larvæ of *Parorgyia parallela* Gr. Rob., *Apatelodes angelica* Grote, *Cœlodasys unicornis* (Sm. Abb. Fig. 101), *Platycerura furcilla* Pack. (Fig. 102), *Dry-*

Fig. 101.

Larva of *Cœlodasys unicornis*.

Fig. 103.

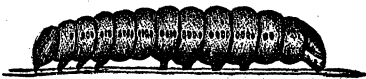
Larva of *Nadata gibbosa*.

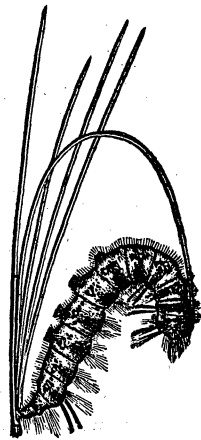
Fig. 104.

Larva of *Notodonta*.

Fig. 105.



Fig. 102.

Larva of *Platycerura furcilla*.

ocampa rubicunda Fabr., *Tolyte Velleda* (Stoll), *Nadata gibbosa* (Sm. Abb. Fig. 103), and an unknown *Notodonta* (Fig. 104, Fig. 105, the same when feeding); also of *Cerura borealis* Bois. (Fig. 106) and other Bombycid moths are described. Several

larvæ of the Noctuidæ are also described for the first time; among them *Diphtera deridens* Guenée (Fig. 107). Several new moths

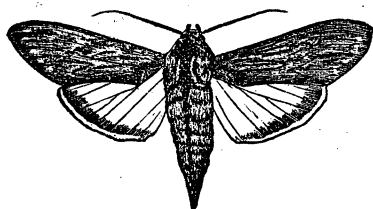
Fig. 106.

Larva of *Cerura*.

Fig. 107.

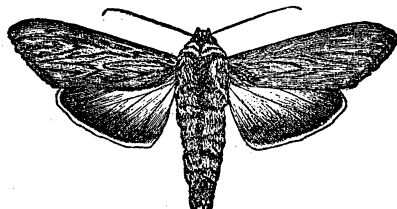
Larva of *Diphtera deridens*.

Fig. 108.



Male.

Fig. 109.



Female.

Cucullia Speyeri.

are described, among them *Cucullia Speyeri* (Fig. 108, male; Fig. 109, female). The separate copies are in some cases accompanied by the finest photographs we ever saw.

ENGLISH SPARROW.—I noticed in your magazine for September Dr. Thos. M. Brewer's defence of the European house sparrow, and being convinced that this little friend of man has been maligned both in its native and adopted home, I desire to add my testimony as the result of careful experience and observation.

In January last I procured twelve European house sparrows in Boston, Mass., and had them sent to me by express. Two died from the effects of the journey, the rest I kept in my barn loft until April, when they were let out, or rather eight of them, as two more were killed by a cat which got in the barn without my knowledge.

On our place we have a large number of pear and peach trees, besides several maples, two walnut trees, an English oak and shrubs and flowering bushes of various kinds. In our kitchen garden we raised during the past season three kinds of corn, potatoes, cabbages, tomatoes, beets, carrots, onions, radishes, strawberry tomatoes, horse radish, celery, several varieties of beans,

peas, squashes, pumpkins, turnips, martynas, lettuce, spinach, and other vegetables, besides herbs, black, red and white currants, and several varieties of grapes; we also had a large number of flowers. During the summer our garden has been remarkably free from worms, and our crops never were better. Our trees never did better, while they have been remarkably free from caterpillars where last year (1873) they were nearly stripped of their foliage by their ravages.

In the place of the eight sparrows let out in April we now have thirty, and they appear to be constantly at work about the place. They are nearly always accompanied by the American goldfinch or yellow bird and our common sparrow.

To-day as I sat in my room writing I saw them fraternizing with a flock of blackbirds on one of our walnut trees. In fact they seem to court the society of other birds, and never have the birds been so abundant on our place. The male sparrows fight among themselves after the manner of roosters, but do not seem to molest other birds.

The sparrows did, with the yellow birds, attack our radish and turnip seeds as they ripened, but by using netting around those plants we kept the birds from doing serious damage. Nothing else was attacked by them, and we consider them a positive benefit to our place. We keep a horse and are accustomed to spread the stable droppings from day to day, broadcast. The sparrows seem to watch for this, and in an incredibly short time pick over and separate the manure and spread it much better than could be done with the hoe and rake. They are sprightly, friendly, and useful, and we would not have them leave us for much more than they originally cost.—STEPHEN GOULD, *Newport, R. I., Sept., 1874.*

MONSTROSITIES AMONG BEETLES.—Dr. Kraatz publishes, in the 17th volume of the *Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift*, an illustrated paper on deformities in beetles.

GEOLOGY.

SUPPOSED LOWER SILURIAN LAND PLANTS.—Prof. J. S. Newberry doubts (*American Journal Science and Arts*, August, 1874) whether the *Sigillaria* mentioned by M. Lesquereux as occurring in the Lower Silurian beds of Ohio is a *Sigillaria* at all or whether it is a land plant even.